

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 28 Issue 8
August 2005

Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club

Since 1978

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

NEW CLUB ADDRESS: 880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160, Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

CLUB Meeting - Wednesday, August 10th

August is a great time to inventory your amateur radio equipment - getting ready for Rickreall in October. If you have gear to donate for the Scholarship Fund...let an officer know.

Our August program features highlights from OTVARC's past. You'll hear about "the good old days" -- lets tell some of the tales and see how good they were!

Everett W6ABM is our presenter. He

will use issues of THE OSCILLATOR from the archives to tell the tales. It should be fun for "old timer" and "newbie" alike.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton. Our meetings open at 7:00 pm and the program is on by 7:45 pm. See you on August 10th.

Guests are welcome.

POTPOURRI Everett Curry W6ABM

The Morse Code requirement and what the FCC will do with it is center-stage for us. Elsewhere in this issue there is an update on where that subject stands.

Lets take charge of this situation for ourselves. The license requirements are **minimum** standards for the Amateur Radio Service. Nothing in Part 97 limits us to those minimums. We can increase our knowledge and skill levels on our own without governmental oversight. In fact, that's how the Amateur Radio Service has operated from the beginning. Part 97 has never been our "standard of highest performance" in any area of the hobby and service.

When I entered ham radio in 1956 a lot of things were different than now. In most cases, Part 97 has been playing "catch-up" to the innovations of licensees. Single Sideband, Repeaters, ATV, and various digital innovations have been developed by hams who were interested in more than "minimums."

Why not ask the ARRL (or another group, i.e. FISTS) to design a proficiency test for Morse Code at various levels (e.g. 10, 15, 20) and administer the testing through the VE system? We would all know that the **20 WPM Certificate** hanging on the wall represented significant work by the ham involved.

For that matter, lets do the same thing
See Page 3 POTPOURRI

CLUB INFORMATION

Happy August Birthday

8 John Hays KD7OHK
 13 Dinah Wells
 16 Jim Blanchard W7HOW
 19 Russell Graham KD7BSA
 21 Dana Gehm KB6VIV
 23 Verne T. Smith W7GRN

Updates and corrections to w6abm@arrl.net

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880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

Amateur Radio Exam Sessions

The August 6th examination session will be complete about the time you get this issue. That leaves October 1st and December 3rd sessions this year.

With changes proposed in the licensing structure, now is the time to get your Technician Plus (just add Element One, Morse Code, to your basic Technician license). Element One may go away by year-end...so, do it now.

Sessions are 1:00 pm at Ronler Acres Fire Station across from Hillsboro Stadium on Evergreen Parkway.

Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

There are other exam opportunities in the area. Send an email to w7otv@arrl.net for locations and times.

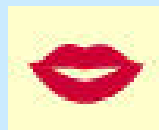
HAMFests

13 August 2005
Coos County Radio Club HAMFEST - SWAPMEET
 The Barn, Bandon, Oregon
 Paul K7AIA
 PO Box 3009, Coos Bay, OR 97420
 541.888.2050
K7AIA@ARRL.net or K7AIA,
www.coosradioclub.org/ccrc/index.php
 Talk-in on 146.61 (no tone)/146.52 simplex

13 August 2005
Tacoma Hamfest & Electronics Flea market
 Bethel JHS
 Spanaway Washington
<http://www.w7dk.org>
 Radio Club of Tacoma
 Frank & Jill Palmer
 253.539.7772
ac7jy@msn.com

22 October 2005
Swap-Toberfest
 Polk County Fairgrounds
 Rickreall Oregon
 Mid-Valley ARES
<http://www.swaptoberfest.net>
 PO Box 931
 Lafayette Oregon 97127
n7lqd@arrl.net

16 - 18 June 2006
SEA-PAC '06
 Seaside, Oregon
<http://www.seapac.org>
 Box 25466
 Portland OR 97298-0466
 Will Sheffield N7THL
n7thl@arrl.net



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Photograph by Ron KD7VIK

**Claire Johnson N7CM****SEA-PAC '06**

SEA-PAC '06 will be held June 16 - 18, 2006 at the Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. The 24th year of the show will contain some new features...as well as the old favorites.

SEA-PAC is the premiere amateur radio event in the northwest. More than two thousand radio operators from the Northwestern Division of the ARRL and beyond attend each year.

Mark you calendar now. Be sure to include **SEA-PAC** on your 2006 ham radio calendar!

LUNCH BUNCH**Helvetia Tavern****10275 NW Helvetia (US 26 Exit 61)****Hillsboro, OR 97124****Lunch in a country setting****Sat August 27th 1:30 PM.****DC POWER****We know how to make connections**

Wes Allen, K7WWG President
665 SW 167th Ave. 503-531-4081
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

POTPOURRI from Page 1

Demonstrated proficiency in other areas: operating practices; digital modes; RF exposure; antenna design; emergency communication; weak signal systems; etc.

The coming action by the FCC opens the door for our innovative colleagues to make the amateur service an even more exciting activity. What ideas, and experiences, can you bring to the table to encourage innovation?

73,

Everett/W6ABM
Vice President

**2005 Pacific Northwest
DX Convention
Sponsored by
The Willamette Valley DX Club
August 5-7, 2005
Monarch Hotel, Portland Oregon**

Join us for the 50th Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention. The Convention includes technical sessions, door prizes, raffle prizes, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Program registration	US\$25.00
Full Registration	US\$60.00
(Program, Banquet, Breakfast, and Prizes)	

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in the
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2005 Digital Communications Conference

Make plans to attend the premier technical conference of the year, the [24th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference](#) to be held September 23-25, 2005, in Santa Ana, California. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques.

Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. Topics include, but are not limited to: Software defined radio (SDR), digital voice, digital satellite communications, Global Position System (GPS), precision timing, Automatic Position Reporting System® (APRS), short messaging (a mode of APRS), Digital Signal Processing (DSP), HF digital modes, Internet interoperability with amateur radio networks, spread spectrum, IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio, using TCP/IP networking over amateur radio, mesh and peer to peer wireless networking, emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications, using Linux in amateur radio, updates on AX.25 and other wireless networking protocols.

[Details](#) about registration are [Online](#) or [Download](#) the DCC 2005 Registration Form (PDF).

tapr@tapr.org

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August Contests

6 - 7 ARRL UHF Contest

Work as many amateur stations in as many 2 degree by 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized amateur frequencies above 222 MHz and all authorized modes of emission.

6 - 7 Lighthouse/Lightship QSO

The event is NOT a contest. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - only as much as they can. We wish operators to enjoy themselves and have fun.

6 - 7 10-10 Int'l Summer QSO Contest

Direct unassisted 10 meter contacts only are permitted. Repeater, Satellite, IRLP or any other similar types of assisted contacts are NOT allowed.

20 - 21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light.

31 Fifth Wednesday Contest

Join us in this 3rd of 4 annual 2 meter simplex events - sponsored by OTVARC. Operating time between 8:00 and 9:00 pm on Wednesday, August 31. Classes for 5 watts or less, 5 watts or more, and multi-op. Jim Schaeffer collects the logs. Certificate awarded.

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FCC TO PROPOSE CW CHANGE

The FCC, on July 19, proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element (Element One) as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the *NPRM* would *not* become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a *Report and Order* (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

The FCC declined in its *NPRM* to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element One would "encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators."

The FCC also said it would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's *NPRM* in WT 05-235 will begin once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the *NPRM*'s publication in the *Federal Register*.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement.

The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants.

FISTS, which encourages increasing use and skill for amateur radio operators using CW, responded through [Nancy, WC8Z](#), saying: The FCC has written an *NPRM* -WT Docket 05-235 - which proposes the elimination of the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes, with no increase in testing of technical knowledge or knowledge of regulations in the written exams.

One part in particular that I find troubling is: We propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license. We believe that this proposal, if adopted, would ... promote more efficient use of the radio spectrum currently allocated to the amateur radio service.

It sounds like if the requirement is gone, our CW-only frequencies will soon be gone, too - to make way for "more efficient use of the spectrum" We have approximately the end of September to file comments after the *NPRM* has been published in the Federal Register (which hasn't happened yet)...This looks like it is going to be the final round in the fight to retain the requirement, so let's make it a good one!

Various clubs and amateur radio interest groups have posted opinion response polls and other feedback devices on the web.

What will the proposed changes mean for your activity on the ham bands? Your comments in various places will be useful.

Read the full FCC release and think about an official response that you might make. You will have an opportunity to post your response to the FCC on line.

OTVARC 5TH WEDNESDAY RADIO CONTEST - August 31, 2005

- 1) Object: To work as many amateur stations as possible in as many different 5-digit ZIP codes as possible, using 147.54 FM simplex.
- 2) Contest Period: 2000 local through 2100 local, Wednesday, August 31, 2005 (8:00 – 9:00 PM PDT).
- 3) Categories:
 - A) Single Operator: One person performs all operating and logging functions.
 - B) Single Operator QRP: Same as (A) with a power limitation of 5 watts.
 - C) Multi-operator: More than one person performing operating and logging functions.
- 4) Exchange: Operating 5-digit ZIP Code and Station Category.
- 5) Scoring:
 - A) QSO points: Count one (1) point for each complete single operator or multi-operator QSO. Count two (2) points for each complete single operator QRP contact.
 - B) Multiplier: The total number of 5-digit ZIP codes worked,
 - C) Total score: Multiply the total number of QSO points by the multiplier.
- 6) Miscellaneous:
 - A) Partial QSOs do not count. Both calls, the full exchange, and acknowledgement must be sent and received.
 - B) While no minimum distance is specified for contacts, equipment should be capable of real communications (ie. able to communicate over at least 1 km.).
 - C) Use of repeaters and telephones to coordinate contacts is not allowed.
 - D) Rovers are not allowed as entries in the contest. Mobile stations can be contacted by stations in the contest. Mobile stations will not have a ZIP code and will not count toward the multiplier count.
 - E) Only one call may be used by any station.
- 7) Reporting:
 - A) Entries must be delivered to the contest organizers at or before the September 14, 2005 OTVARC club meeting. (to: Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH, Jim.Schaeffer@sulzer.com)), or by mail to the Club Post Office Address.
 - B) Entries must be made on log sheets showing time of QSO, Call, Zip Code and Contest Category.
- 8) Awards:
 - A) Certificates will be awarded for the top points winner in each station category.
 - B) Awards will be made at the club meeting October 12, 2005.

Contest Summary Sheet

Call Used _____ Operating ZIP Code _____

Other Operators _____

Category: A - Single Op B - Single Op QRP C - Multi-operator

Scoring:	Category A QSO's _____	x 1 = _____	
	Category B QSO's _____	x 2 = _____	
	Category C QSO's _____	x 1 = _____	
	TOTAL QSO Points _____		
	Times Number of Zip Codes x _____		
	TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE _____		

Signed _____

Date _____

Attach Log Sheets detailing all contacts, including Call, ZIP Code, Category, and Time.

CLUB MEETING
AUGUST 10TH

Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG
w7otv@arrl.net
Simplex: 147.54 MHz
Repeaters: 146.96 MHz
440.350 MHz (127.3)
Editor: Everett W6ABM
w6abm@arrl.net

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SEA-PAC '05 - Photograph by Ron KD7VIK